

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OECD P 05948 272000Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY USERY, SEGALL AND METCALF

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SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTER'S MEETING - DRAFT RECOMMENDATION
DISCUSSED AT FEB. 26 COUNCIL MEETING

REF: A) OECD PARIS 3692; B) MAS/MIN(76)6, 2/17/76;
C) OECD PARIS 2345

1. DURING FEB. 26 COUNCIL MEETING, SEC GEN VAN LENNEP
SAID FRENCH LAB MIN DURAFOUR, MINISTERIAL CHAIRMAN, MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS DURING FEB. 25 LUNCHEON WITH VAN
LENNEP AND MSA DIRECTORATE HEAD GASS:

A. DURAFOUR STRONGLY HOPES LAB MINS WILL LIMIT
ORAL STATEMENTS TO 5 MINUTES ON CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
SITUATION (AGENDA ITEM 5) AND INCLUDE FURTHER POINTS
THEY WISH TO MAKE IN WRITTEN STATEMENTS TO BE INSERTED
IN RECORD AND DISTRIBUTED TO PRESS SO THAT THERE WILL
BE ADEQUATE TIME FOR DISCUSSION UNDER OTHER AGENDA ITEMS.

B. DURAFOUR FAVORS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH BIAC AND
TUAC AND WAS PLEASED THAT SECRETARIAT SENT THEM THE
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PAGE 02 OECD P 05948 272000Z

MINISTERIAL DOCUMENTS; VAN LENNEP INDICATED THAT ONLY

BIAC HAS THUS FAR PROVIDED COMMENTS ON THESE DOCUMENTS. VAN LENNEP SAID DURAFOUR INTENDS TO INVITE BIAC AND TUAC REPS TO CALL ON HIM ON "EVE" OF MINISTERIAL TO HEAR THEIR VIEWS.

C. DURAFOUR THOUGHT BACKGROUND REPORT (ANNEX) TO RECOMMENDATION (REF B) SHOULD NOT ACTUALLY BE APPROVED BY MINISTERS BUT BY OFFICIAL-LEVEL MSAC AT ITS MARCH 3 MEETING. ACCORDING TO VAN LENNEP, DURAFOUR THOUGHT MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR APPROVING REPORT WOULD LEAD THEM TO REVIEW DOCUMENT "LINE BY LINE". THUS DURAFOUR WOULD PREFER THAT MINISTERS LIMIT THEIR ACTION TO "ENDORISING" DECISION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE MSAC ON MARCH 3. IN RESPONSE TO SWEDISH QUESTION, VAN LENNEP CONFIRMED THAT REPORT WOULD REMAIN AN ANNEX TO RECOMMENDATION.

2. SECRETARIAT (VAN LENNEP'S CHEF DE CABINET DANTIN) SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED US THAT SUGGESTION CONTAINED IN SUB-PARA C ABOVE REALLY EMANATED FROM VAN LENNEP HIMSELF WHO WAS CONCERNED THAT SOME MINISTERS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON NEGOTIATIONS WHICH LED TO REPORT AND MIGHT BEGIN TO QUESTION IT AT MINISTERIAL MEETING IF ASKED FORMALLY TO APPROVE IT. SUCH A DISCUSSION, VAN LENNEP FEARED, MIGHT LEAD TO FAILURE OF MINISTERS TO APPROVE REPORT. TO HANDLE THIS CONCERN, VAN LENNEP WAS PROPOSING ADDITION TO THE DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION (MAS/MIN(76)6) OF A FINAL PREAMBULAR CLAUSE STATING: "HAVING REGARD TO THE REPORT WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE MSAC ON MARCH 3" AND ELIMINATION OF REFERENCE TO THE REPORT IN THE SECOND "HAVING REGARDS" CLAUSE. DANTIN CONFIRMED THAT DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WOULD CONTINUE TO CONTAIN REFERENCE TO MINISTERIAL ACTION ON MSAC REPORT.

3. COMMENT. UNDER VAN LENNEP'S PROPOSAL, MINISTERS WOULD STILL BE PROPOSING THAT THE COUNCIL ENDORSE THE VIEWS IN THE REPORT ANNEXED TO THE RECOMMENDATION. THUS, THE CHANGE PROPOSED SEEMS MINOR.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. (1) IF WASHINGTON HAS GUIDANCE ON THE VAN LENNEP PROPOSAL, WE SHOULD RECEIVE IT
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PAGE 03 OECD P 05948 272000Z

ASAP. (2) WE WILL NEED AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION IN COUNCIL(REF C). SINCE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOME CHANGES IN THIS LANGUAGE MIGHT BE MADE DURING MINISTERIAL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DISCRETION TO APPROVE DOCUMENT WITH POSSIBLE MINOR CHANGES.
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